



## Narrative of Faith

### **Core Competency:**

The primary focus of the Core Sessions is the evangelization and faith journey of the catechist. It is essential that these sessions invite the catechist to discipleship by cultivating their relationship with Christ and a life of holiness.

### **Focus of the Session:**

The participants will understand the significance of narrative in both our personal faith journey and as a tool for catechesis. Whether the stories are from Scripture, the lives of saints, or our own personal story, they have a profound effect on our faith life. In narrative, we encounter the truths of the faith and the person of God in a way that is not possible through an academic pursuit. As part of the session, the catechist will be offered tools to articulate and share their own faith story. The catechist will then be empowered to help the participants recognizing God's hand in their lives.

### **Content of the Session:**

#### **1. Narrative (*Moderate Development*)**

- a. Jesus' use of narrative and parables. (Mk 4:33 CCC 546)
- b. Lives of the Saints
  - The stories of the saints inspire and form us.
  - They give witness to the Gospel in every age.
- c. The value of narrative in catechesis
  - Effectively conveys deeper truths and realities.
    - "Narrative language is particularly appropriate for the transmission of the faith in a culture that is increasingly poor in deep and effective models of communication." (DC 207)
    - The concepts of faith are manifested in a tangible way.
  - Engages participants emotionally and intellectually.
  - Increased capacity to recall and glean meaning from a story.
  - Effective with all age groups and educational levels.
  - Can help dispose participants to receive challenging teachings and inspire participants to live for Christ.
  - Increases perseverance and hope: Recognizing God's faithfulness in our life helps us to persevere through the tragedies and hardships of life, family, and school.
  - Gives meaning and understanding to our experience.
    - "Narration helps, "people understand themselves and the realities that surrounds them and gives meaning to their experience." (DC 207)

#### **2. Your Personal Witness (*In Depth Exploration*)**

- a. Understanding your story in the light of God's love

- Life story
    - How has God been active across the span of your life?
    - What people or events did God use to bring you to this moment? These may include victories, tragedies, and the ordinary.
    - Having encountered God, how are you different?
  - Daily story
    - Where do you see God in your daily life?
    - How are the people or events in your life an opportunity for holiness?
    - How is He calling you to a deeper relationship?
    - How are you responding to God's call?
- b. Sharing your story
- The value of your witness.
    - The *woman at the well* shares her encounter with Jesus and converts a town. (Jn 4:4 cf)
  - A simple formula for your story:
    - Before God I was \_\_\_\_\_.
    - I encountered Him \_\_\_\_\_.
    - Now I am \_\_\_\_\_.
    - This witness is followed by an invitation to others to have their own encounter with Jesus.
  - Ensure that your story is age appropriate and does not glamorize sin.
- c. Fostering the students' story
- Hear their story and understand their hopes, dreams, concerns, and fears.
  - Help them to recognize the hand of God in their daily life.
  - Help them to see God is the answer to their struggles, temptations and hopes.
  - Invite them to share their story with others.

### 3. God's Story (*Basic Introduction*)

- God's story of creation and salvation are laid out in the Bible.
- Through Jesus, we are invited to enter this epic story.
  - Our story merges with God's and ours takes on greater value.
  - We find belonging in the community of God's people.
  - We find meaning for our life in both our joys and sufferings.
  - We find identity as beloved children of God.

#### **Additional References:**

- Catechism of the Catholic Church: #18, 24
- Directory for Catechesis: #175, 207-208

#### **Document Abbreviations:**

DC- Directory for Catechesis